Client's Docket No. SAM1649

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **JAMIE R. BRIDGEMAN**, a citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful **PORTABLE MOORING DOCK FOR A BOAT** of which the following is a specification:

PORTABLE MOORING DOCK FOR A BOAT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to mooring docks for boats and more particularly pertains to a new portable mooring dock for a boat for allowing a user to secure and safely anchor one's boat along a shoreline.

Description of the Prior Art

The use of mooring docks for boats is known in the prior art. More specifically, mooring docks for boats heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 6,067,926; U.S. Patent No. 4,913,078; U.S. Patent No. 5,165,823; U.S. Patent No. 4,142,477; U.S. Patent No. 5,067,428; and U.S. Patent No. Des. 212,654.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not disclose a new portable mooring dock for a boat. The prior art includes portable boat docks having frames and other supports for securing the portable docks to the ground.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new portable mooring dock for a boat which has many of the advantages of the mooring docks for boats mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new portable mooring dock for a boat which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art mooring docks for boats, either alone or in any combination thereof. The present invention includes boat connectors being fastenable to a boat; and also includes a boat mooring assembly being attached to the boat connectors, and including elongate support members and elongate cross member, and also including ground securement members for securing the elongate support members to a ground; and further includes a floatation assembly being connected to the boat mooring assembly to facilitate floatation of the boat mooring assembly. None of the prior art includes the combination of the elements of the present invention.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the portable mooring dock for a boat in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may

be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a new portable mooring dock for a boat which has many of the advantages of the mooring docks for boats mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new portable mooring dock for a boat which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art mooring docks for boats, either alone or in any combination thereof.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new portable mooring dock for a boat for allowing a user to secure and safely anchor one's boat along a shoreline.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new portable mooring dock for a boat that is easy and convenient to set up and use.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new portable mooring dock for a boat that prevents the

possibility of sharp objects impacting the bottom of the boat along shorelines with the boat being safely anchored in the water off the shoreline.

These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a new portable mooring dock for a boat according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a detailed partial perspective view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is another detailed partial perspective view of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the present invention being taken apart and arranged for compact storing.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 4 thereof, a new portable mooring dock for a boat embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, the portable mooring dock for a boat 10 generally comprises boat connectors 11 being removably fastenable to a boat 18. Each of the boat connectors 11 includes a shaft 12, and also includes a U-shaped bracket member 13 being securely and conventionally attached and welded to the shaft 12 and having grommet members 14 being conventionally attached and welded to ends of the U-shaped bracket member 13, and further includes a tether 15 and a fastener 16 being conventionally attached to the tether 15 and being removably received through the grommet members 14 to fasten the U-shaped bracket member 13 to a respective eyelet 17 being conventionally attached to the boat 18.

A boat mooring assembly is conventionally attached to the boat connectors 11, and includes elongate support members 19,22,25,28 and elongate cross members 31,34, and also includes ground securement members 52 for securing the elongate support members to a ground 54. The elongate support members 19,22,25,28 are conventionally connected to the boat connectors 11 and include two sets of the elongate support members with the elongate support members 19,22,25,28 of each of the two sets of the elongate support members being hingedly connected end to end. Each of the two sets of the elongate support members includes a first elongate tubular member 19 having first and second ends 20,21 with the shaft 12 of a respective boat connector 11 being securely and fastenably received in the first end 20 of the first elongate

tubular member 19, and also includes a second elongate tubular member 22 being hingedly attached to the first elongate tubular member 19, and further includes a third elongate tubular member 25 being hingedly attached to the second elongate tubular member 22, and also includes a ground securement tubular member 28 being hingedly attached to the third elongate tubular member 25. The elongate cross members 31,34 includes two sets of the elongate cross members interconnecting the two sets of the elongate support members. Each of the two sets of the elongate cross members includes first and second tubular cross members 31,34 being hingedly attached to one another at first ends 32,35 thereof and being fastened at second ends 33,36 thereof to the elongate support members 19,22,25,28, and having holes 37 being disposed therethrough near the second ends 33,36 thereof. The boat mooring assembly further includes cross member connectors 38 being conventionally attached to and extending outwardly from the elongate support members 19,22,25,28 and having bores 39 extending therethrough. The cross member connectors 38 are fastenably and removably received in the second ends 33,36 of the first and second tubular cross members 31,34. The boat mooring assembly also includes grommets 53 being securely and conventionally attached to second ends 30 of the ground securement tubular members 28. The ground securement members 52 include stakes being removably received in the grommets 53 and being removably penetrated in the ground 54. The boat mooring assembly further includes first linkage members 40 being pivotally and conventionally attached to the second ends 21 of the first tubular members 19 and to first ends 23 of the second tubular members 22, and also includes second linkage members 41 being pivotally and conventionally attached to the first ends 32,35 of the first and

second tubular cross members 31,34. The first and second tubular members 19,22 are foldable upon one another for compact storing thereof. The first and second tubular cross members 31,34 are removably disposed upon one another also for compact storing thereof. The boat mooring assembly also includes first brackets 42 being hingedly and conventionally attached to second ends 24 of the second elongate tubular members 22 and to first ends 26 of the third elongate tubular members 25, and also includes second brackets 43 being hingedly and conventionally attached to second ends 27 of the third elongate tubular members 25 and to first ends 29 of the ground securement tubular members 28. The first and second elongate tubular member 19,22 are foldable upon the third elongate tubular member 25, and the third elongate tubular member is foldable upon the ground securement tubular member 28 for easy storing thereof. The boat mooring assembly further includes flexible lines 44 being conventionally attached to the elongate cross members 31,34, and also includes flexible pin fastening members 45 being conventionally attached to ends of the flexible lines 44, and further includes pins 46 being conventionally attached to the flexible pin fastening members 45 and being removably received through holes 37 of the first and second tubular cross members 31,34 and of the first and second bracket members 42,43 and of the third elongate and ground securement tubular members 25,28 and through the bores 39 of the cross member connectors 38.

A floatation assembly is conventionally connected to the boat mooring assembly to facilitate floatation of the boat mooring assembly. The floatation assembly includes cords 47 being conventionally attached to the elongate support members 19,22,25,28, and also includes floatation members 48 being conventionally attached to the cords 47. Each of the floatation

members 48 includes a balloon-shaped member 49 and also includes a tongue member 50 being conventionally attached to the balloon-shaped member 49 and having an eyelet 51 with a respective cord 47 being conventionally connected to the eyelet 51.

In use, the user would straighten out the elongate support members 19,22,25,28, and would interconnect the two sets of elongate support members with the elongate cross members 31,34. The user would then attach the boat connectors 11 to the eyelets 17 which are securely fastened to the boat 18 with the grommets 53 being secured to the ground 54 with the stakes 52. The boat 18 would be positioned just off shore without the bottom of the boat 18 impacting any of the ground 54 of the shoreline. When finished, the user would disconnect the boat connectors 11 from the eyelets 17 and would fold up the boat mooring assembly in a compact storable form.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the portable mooring dock for a boat. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.